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PROMISING JUVENILES MAJOR GENERAL, ROGER MCQUEEN, STELLAR TAP HEAD \$300,000 IROQUOIS AS CHURCHILL DOWNS KICKS OFF ‘ROAD TO KETNUCKY DERBY’

Iroquois is One of Five Stakes Events Saturday Evening for Downs After Dark Presented by Budweiser

LOUISVILLE, Ky. (Wednesday, Sept. 15, 2021) – The 37-race “Road to the Kentucky Derby presented by Woodford Reserve” will officially begin Saturday evening under the lights at Churchill Downs as 11 promising 2-year-olds were entered in the 40th running of the Grade III, \$300,000 Iroquois Stakes.

The 1 1/16-mile Iroquois is one of five stakes events on the first Saturday of the 12-day September Meet. The Top 4 finishers of the race will receive 10-4-2-1 points as part of the 21-race “Prep Season” that showcases foundation-building races in advance of the “Championship Series,” which begins in mid-February.

The Iroquois and the \$300,000 Pocahontas (GIII) for 2-year-old fillies are both part of the Breeders’ Cup “Win and You’re In” series and will offer an automatic entry-fee paid berth to the season-ending championships held on Nov. 5 at Del Mar.

The Iroquois was carded as Race 9 with a post time of 10:11 p.m. The first of 11 races will begin at 6 p.m. The other stakes events on the evening’s program are the Pocahontas, \$400,000 Locust Grove (GIII), \$300,000 Open Mind and \$275,000 Louisville Thoroughbred Society.

In the Iroquois, **Carolyn Wilson’s** \$125,000 Ellis Park Juvenile winner **Roger McQueen** will attempt his first victory around two turns for trainer **Larry Rivelli**. The Unified colt, who was purchased for \$530,000 at the 2021 OBS March Sale, was the half-length winner of the seven-furlong Ellis Park Juvenile under jockey **Adam Beschizza**, Roger McQueen drew post No. 3 with Beschizza back in the saddle again.

Among Roger McQueen’s main rivals in the Iroquois is **WinStar Farm** and **Siena Farm’s** Saratoga debut winner **Major General** for newly-elected Hall of Fame trainer **Todd Pletcher**. The Constitution colt broke his maiden in a 6 1/2-furlong maiden special weight contest as the 5-2 post time favorite. New York-based **Javier Castellano** will be in town to ride from post 8.

Also entered in the field is **L and N Racing** and **Winchell Thoroughbreds’** 5 1/4-length debut winner **Stellar Tap**. The son of Tapit arrived to Churchill Downs on Tuesday from Saratoga where he gave Hall of Fame conditioner **Steve Asmussen** his North American record-breaking 9,446th career win. **Ricardo Santana Jr.** will have the return mount from post 6.

The complete field for the Iroquois from the rail out (with jockey and trainer): **Tough to Tame** (Sophie Doyle, Chris Davis); **Lucky Boss** (Brian Hernandez Jr., Kenny McPeck); Roger McQueen (Beschizza, Rivelli); **Strike Hard** (Leonel Reyes, Matthew Williams); **Magnolia Midnight** (Corey Lanerie, Dallas Stewart); Stellar Tap (Santana, Asmussen); **Red Knobs** (James Graham, Dale Romans); Major General (Castellano, Pletcher); **Guntown** (Tyler Gaffalione, Asmussen); **Husband Material** (Florent Geroux, Jimmy Toner); and **Bourbon Heist** (Joe Talamo, Ian Wilkes).

Thoroughbred Racing will meet Louisville Cardinals Basketball Saturday night when **Louisville Live**, the University of Louisville’s annual preseason basketball event, comes to Churchill Downs for Downs After Dark. To celebrate the theme of “**Horses & Hoops**,” fans are encouraged to wear Cardinals gear to this one-of-a-kind experience. Gates will open at 5 p.m. and the first race is 6 p.m. The spacious 30,000-square-foot Plaza adjacent to the saddling paddock will showcase pulsating live entertainment featuring the Cardinals’ men’s and women’s basketball teams on a portable court. The entertainment line-up will include official DJ for the Louisville Cardinals, **DJ K-Dogg**, who will spin game-time favorites from the Plaza stage.

UofL's 1986 NCAA Championship men's basketball team, guided by then future Hall of Fame Coach **Denny Crum**, will participate in the festivities and will be available to sign autographs prior to the Louisville Live main feature at 7:15 p.m.

Two specialty cocktails will be sold at the Old Forester Paddock Bar and the Spend a Buck Bar on the second floor of the Clubhouse in the Food Court: "The Cardinal Crush" and "The Slam Dunk."

General admission to Downs After Dark is \$12 and includes an official program. Guests under the age of 18 will only be admitted to the track if accompanied by a parent or adult guardian. Limited premium dining packages are available starting at \$76 per person. Outdoor-third floor box seats are on sale for \$27 per person. Reserved seating can be purchased online at www.ChurchillDowns.com/Tickets.

Fans can bet and watch all of Churchill Downs races on www.TwinSpires.com – the official advance-deposit wagering service for Churchill Downs Incorporated and its family of racetracks.

DEBUTANTE STAKES RUNNER-UP ONTHEONESANDTWS SEARCHES FOR FIRST-CAREER STAKES WIN IN POCAHONTAS – Deuce Greathouse, Cindy Hutson, Madaket Stables and Thomas Romano's Ontheonesandtwos will be in search of her first graded stakes win in Saturday's 53rd running of the \$300,000 Pocahontas (Grade III) – the kickoff to the "Road to the Kentucky Oaks."

Saturday's Pocahontas Stakes, which goes as Race 8 with a post time of 9:39 p.m., is part of the Breeders' Cup "Win and You're In" series where the winner will receive an automatic entry-fee paid berth to the \$2 million Breeders' Cup Juvenile Fillies (GI) on Nov. 5 at Del Mar.

The 1 1/16-mile race also offers points to the Top 4 finishers on a 10-4-2-1 scale to the Longines Kentucky Oaks (GI).

The Pocahontas shares the Saturday spotlight with the \$300,000 Iroquois, its counterpart for 2-year-olds that begins the "Road to the Kentucky Derby" along with the \$400,000 Locust Grove (GIII), \$300,000 Open Mind and \$275,000 Louisville Thoroughbred Society. The first of 11 races will get underway at 6 p.m. for Downs After Dark presented by Budweiser.

Ontheonesandtwos, a 2-year-old Jimmy Creed filly trained by **Norm Casse**, won her debut in May at Churchill Downs by 1 3/4 lengths. The former \$37,000 purchase from the 2020 Keeneland September Yearling Sale finished second behind **Behave Virginia** in the \$150,000 Debutante and sixth in the \$200,000 Adirondack Stakes (GII) at Saratoga. Jockey **Ricardo Santana Jr.** will ride from post No. 4.

Among Ontheonesandtwos' rivals in the Pocahontas is **Hidden Brook Farm's** flashy debut winner **Hidden Connection**. Trained by **Bret Calhoun**, Hidden Connection won four weeks ago at Colonial Downs by 7 1/2 lengths under jockey **Reylu Gutierrez**. Hidden Connection is among the first-crop of 2-year-olds from her sire Connect. She was purchased at the 2021 OBS June Horses of Racing Age Sale for \$85,000. Gutierrez has the return call from post 9.

The complete field from the rail out (with jockey and trainer): **Code for Success** (Rafael Bejarano, Vicki Oliver); **Goddess of Fire** (Javier Castellano, Todd Pletcher); **Mama Rina** (Brian Hernandez Jr., Kenny McPeck); Ontheonesandtwos (Santana, Norm Casse); **Majestic d'Oro** (Martin Garcia, Brendan Walsh); **Kneesnhips** (James Graham, Tom Amoss); **Miss Chamita** (Gregory Romero, Michel Doulhy); Hidden Connection (Gutierrez, Calhoun); **Lemieux** (Tyler Gaffalione, Mark Casse); and **Joyrunner** (Joe Ramos, Laura Wohlers).

MULTIPLE GRADE I WINNER SHEDARESTHEDEVIL SET FOR FINAL BREEDERS' CUP PREP IN GRADE III, \$400,000 LOCUST GROVE – Qatar Racing, Flurry Racing Stables and Big Aut Farms' 2020 Longines Kentucky Oaks (Grade I) hero Shedaresthedevil headlines Saturday's 37th running of the \$400,000 Locust Grove (GIII) at Churchill Downs.

Run at 1 1/16-miles, the Locust Grove could be used to launch fillies and mares to a spot in the starting gate for the \$2 million Longines Distaff (GI) on Nov. 6 at Del Mar. The Locust Grove is carded as Race 10 with a post time of 10:42 p.m. First post is 6 p.m. The race shares the Saturday night spotlight with the \$300,000 Iroquois (GIII), \$300,000 Pocahontas (GIII), \$300,000 Open Mind and \$275,000 Louisville Thoroughbred Society.

Shedaresthedevil, the 15-1 upset winner of last year's Kentucky Oaks, has been perfect in four starts beneath the Twin Spires. Trained by **Brad Cox**, Shedaresthedevil surpassed \$2 million in earnings with a victory in last month's \$300,000 Clement L. Hirsch (GI) at Del Mar. Shedaresthedevil began her career at Churchill Downs in 2019 where she had a 3 1/4-length debut win for trainer **Norm Casse**. Following a three-race stint with California-based conditioner **Simon Callaghan**, she was transferred to Cox in early 2020.

The now 4-year-old daughter of Daredevil is 3-for-4 to start her 2021 campaign including a one-length score in the \$500,000 La Troienne. Jockey **Florent Geroux** has been aboard Shedaresthedevil for her last eight starts and will be reunited with the eight-time winner Saturday from post No. 7.

Also entered in the Locust Grove is last year's \$200,000 Falls City (GII) winner **Envoutante**. Owned by **Walking L Thoroughbreds** and **Three Chimneys Farm** and trained by **Kenny McPeck**, Envoutante finished second to Shedaresthedevil in the La Troienne. Following that race, Envoutante was victorious in the \$150,000 Shawnee. The 4-year-old daughter of Uncle Mo has been away from the races since June 26 when she finished third to arguably the nation's top Distaff contender **Letruska** in the \$300,000 Fleur de Lis (GII).

Envoutante has recorded five victories through 13 starts with stout purse earnings of \$571,438. **Brian Hernandez Jr.** has the mount from post 5.

The field for the Locust Grove from the rail out (with jockey and trainer): **Crystal Ball** (Tyler Gaffalione, Rodolphe Brisset); **High Regard** (Rafael Bejarano, Vicki Oliver); **Lady Kate** (Adam Beschizza, Eddie Kenneally); **Matera** (Ricardo Santana Jr. Cox); Envoutante (Hernandez, McPeck); **Our Super Freak** (David Cohen, Cherie DeVaux); and Shedaresthedevil (Geroux, Cox).

TOP FILLY & MARE SPRINT RIVALS BELL'S THE ONE, SCONSIN REMATCH IN \$300,000 OPEN MIND – Lothenbach Stables' Bell's the One and Fred Schwartz' Sconsin, two of the top prospects for this year's Breeders' Cup Filly & Mare Sprint (GI), are set to duel once again in Saturday's \$300,000 Open Mind (Listed) at Churchill Downs.

Saturday's Open Mind was carded as Race 3 of 11 with a post time of 6:56 p.m. It is the first of five stakes events on the card and shares the spotlight with the \$300,000 Iroquois (Grade III), \$300,000 Pocahontas (GIII), \$400,000 Locust Grove (GIII) and \$275,000 Louisville Thoroughbred Society.

Three months ago, Bell's the One and Sconsin faced one another in the \$110,000 Roxelana where Bell's the One scored the three-quarters of a length victory at odds of 2-1. Trained by **Neil Pessin**, the accomplished mare Bell's the One has recorded nine victories from 19 lifetime starts and topped more than \$1.1 million in purse earnings with her victory in the \$200,000 Honorable Miss (GII) at Saratoga.

The six-furlong Honorable Miss was the first time in Bell's the One's career she was the post time favorite. Jockey **Corey Lanerie**, who has ridden Bell's the One in 14 prior starts, has the mount Saturday from post No. 5.

Four-time winning filly Sconsin, trained by **Greg Foley**, was made the 7-5 favorite in the Roxelana but was passed in deep stretch by Bell's the One. Sconsin's 2021 campaign has included a victory in the \$150,000 Winning Colors (GIII) by 3 1/4 lengths under jockey **Tyler Gaffalione**. Her most recent start was a fourth-place finish behind **Gamine** in the \$500,000 Ballerina (GI) at Saratoga. Gaffalione has the call from post 2.

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The Open Mind field also includes two-time stakes winner **Mundaye Call** and Honorable Miss pacesetter and third-place finisher **Ain't No Elmers**.

The complete field from the rail out (with jockey and trainer): Mundaye Call (Florent Geroux, Brad Cox); Sconsin (Gaffalione, Foley); Ain't No Elmers (Adam Beschizza, Bret Calhoun); **Jungle Juice (IRE)** (Alex Achard, Anna Meah); and Bell's the One (Lanerie, Pessin).

BANGO SEARCHES FOR SEVENTH CHURCHILL DOWNS VICTORY IN INAUGURAL RUNNING OF \$275,000 LOUISVILLE THOROUGHBRED SOCIETY – Tamaroak Partners' homebred **Bango** will attempt to score his seventh victory beneath the historic Twin Spires in Saturday night's fist running of the \$275,000 Louisville Thoroughbred Society at Churchill Downs.

The Louisville Thoroughbred Society, named for the downtown Louisville-based private club that opened its doors in March, was carded as Race 7 at 9:05 p.m. The first of 11 races will begin at 6 p.m. The night program, dubbed as Downs After Dark presented by Budweiser, also features the \$300,000 Iroquois (GIII), \$300,000 Pocahontas (GIII), \$400,000 Locust Grove (GIII) and the \$300,000 Open Mind.

Trained by **Greg Foley**, Bango has recorded six of his eight lifetime scores at Churchill Downs. Bango will enter Saturday's six-furlong affair following three-consecutive victories in the \$150,000 Aristides, \$110,000 Kelly's Landing and \$75,000 Good Lord. Jockey **Tyler Gaffalione**, who was aboard Bango for his narrow victory in the Kelly's Landing, has the call from post No. 5.

Another accomplished sprinter that will enter the Louisville Thoroughbred Society with a three-race win streak is **Griffon Farms** and trainer **Michelle Lovell's** homebred **Just Might**. The seven-time winning son of Justin Phillip spent the summer at Colonial Downs in Virginia where he was victorious in the \$100,000 Da Hoss Stakes on turf and \$100,000 Chesapeake Stakes on dirt. His last victory at Churchill Downs came in June when he defeated six rivals in the \$110,000 Mighty Beau at 5 ½ furlongs on turf.

Just Might's regular jockey **Colby Hernandez** is riding Saturday at Woodbine so **Rafael Bejarano** retained the mount from post 3.

The full field for the Louisville Thoroughbred Society from the rail out (with jockey and trainer): **Dennis' Moment** (Corey Lanerie, Dale Romans); **Endorsed** (Julien Leparoux, Mike Maker); Just Might (Bejarano, Lovell); **Derby Date** (Adam Beschizza, Jack Sisterson); Bango (Gaffalione, Foley); and **Mighty Mischief** (Ricardo Santana Jr., Steve Asmussen).

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